

# St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

2230 Highland Road ♦ Hermitage, Pennsylvania 16148

Parish office: 724-981-6680 ♦ Parish email: [stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com)

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Kevin E. Marks, Protopresbyter

Pastor's email: [kevmarks@hotmail.com](mailto:kevmarks@hotmail.com) ♦ Pastor's Cell Phone: 412-480-4508

Website: [www.stmichaelbyzhermitage.com](http://www.stmichaelbyzhermitage.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.hermitage](https://facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.hermitage)

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Saturdays 3:30 p.m., holydays, or by appt.

Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office.

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness.

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office at least 8 months prior to wedding.

Religious Education Classes ..... Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

GCU ..... See Bill Dzuricsko.

St. Michael's Activity & Recreation Team (SMART) ..... Everyone encouraged to help out.

Bethany Ministry ..... Ministry to the sick; see Joan Walker for info.

St. Michael's Social Center ..... Call parish office for rentals.

St. Michael's Cemetery, 2296 Longview Rd., Hermitage ..... Steve Sherman II, manager.

Your Will ..... Please be so kind as to remember St. Michael's in your last will and testament. Secure our future.



**WEEKEND LITURGIES:** Sat eve: 4:00 p.m. Sun: 9:00 a.m. **HOLYDAYS:** 10:00 a.m.

## Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, “if you would enter life, keep the commandments,” the man expects him to add immediately, “My commandments.” “Which ones?” he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected, but simply pointed him to the law.

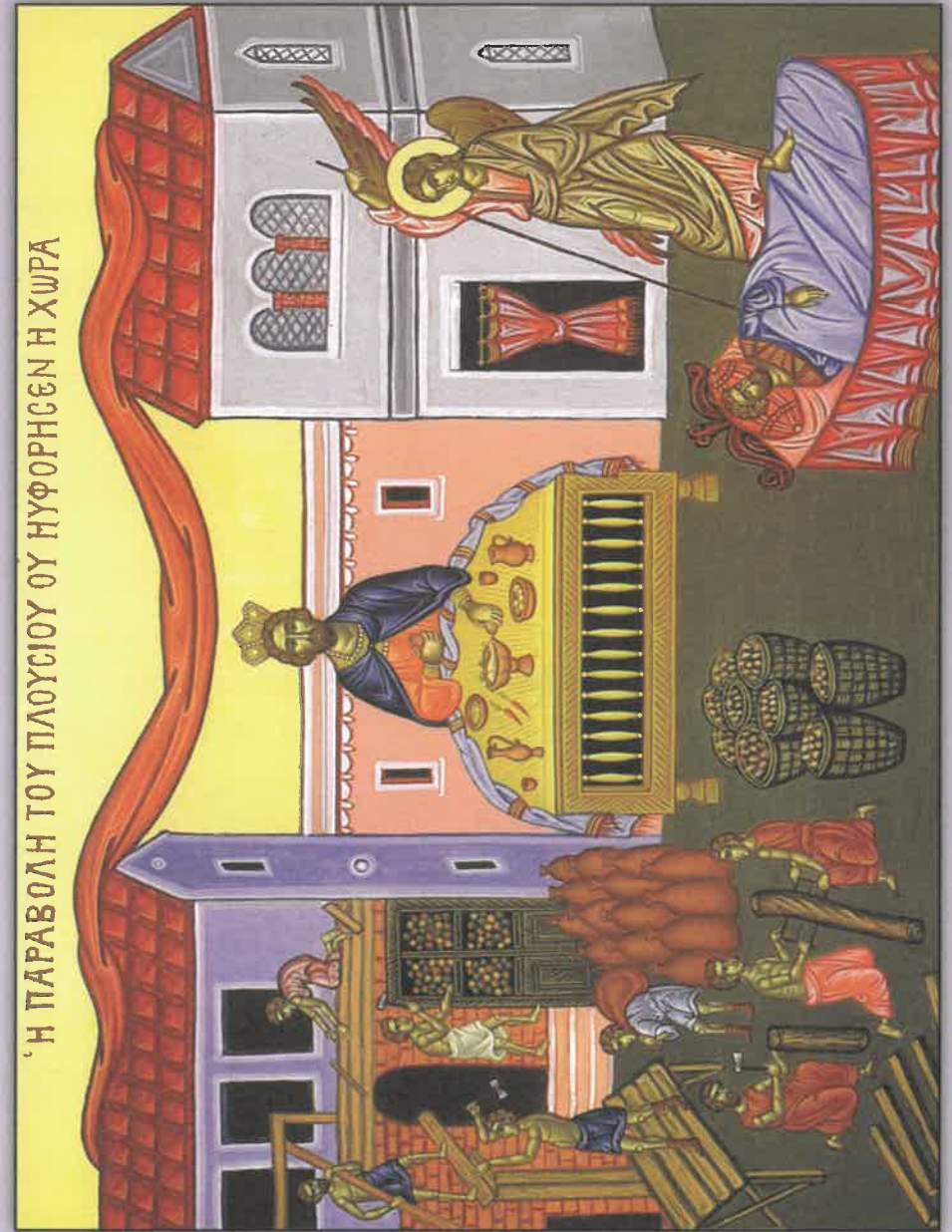
This is not because the law is perfection, for “no one is justified by the law,” as it is written, but because the life lived according to the law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. “For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ.”

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in “eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance, with the view to the greater good, teaching that “if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well.”

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
 Glory Forever!  
 Slava Isusu Christu!  
 Slava Na Viki!



**120**  
 St. Michael  
 the Archangel  
 BYZANTINE  
 Catholic Church  
 founded 1905  
 Hermitage, Pennsylvania



**SAT., NOV 22**  
 4:00 p.m.

**(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**

+Christine Burger requested by: Slaves of Immac. Heart of Mary

**SUN., NOV 23**

9:00 a.m.

**THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sunday of St. Philip's Fast**

+Carol Ann Sabol requested by: Dr. Thomas A. & Soo-ok Miller  
 (4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passing 11.21)



Home Traveling Vocation Icon Participants for November 23-29:  
 The Hrishenko Family

**THURS., NOV 27**

10:00 a.m.

**Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy — Mirovanije**

Thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings



**SAT., NOV 29**

4:00 p.m.

**(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**

+Christine Burger requested by: Martha Stambaugh

**SUN., NOV 30**

9:00 a.m.

**THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Sunday of St. Philip's Fast**

Health & God's Blessings Upon  
 Dawnya Marceau (70<sup>th</sup> birthday 11.21) requested by: Children  
 & Grandchildren



**The Sanctuary Candle  
 for this week of:  
 November 23 – 29, 2025**  
*signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is*

**In Loving Memory of  
 +LARRY & +DELORES  
 ZURASKI**

*From: Sharon & Sam Kudelko*



**The Mother Of God  
 Candle for this week of:  
 November 23 – 29, 2025**  
*signifying her Intercession is*

**In Loving Memory of  
 +NICKOLAS HOLUP**  
*(remembrance of 102nd birthday Nov. 26)*

*From: The Sherman & Holup Families*



*Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery updated: Nov. 21, 2025*

**RESIDING AT HOME** – Bob Kovach, Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Hank & Anne Pajak, Mary Ann Polochak,  
 George Sewecke, Irene Shaffer, Ethel Wahal, Frank Wahal, Marko Zrile.  
**Cleveland VA Medical Center (10701 E. Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106)** – David Chesmar Jr.  
**The Lakes At Jefferson (7271 West Market St., Mercer, PA 16137)** – Michael Kennis.  
**Avalon Springs Place (745 Greenville Rd., Mercer, PA 16137)** – Dolores Vasil.  
**Ridgecrest At Cranberry Woods (3020 Fairport Ln., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066)** – J. Richard Will.  
**St. Paul Homes (339 East Jamestown Rd., Greenville, PA 16125)** – Lillian Sulick.  
**The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley (1 Elston Way, Hermitage, PA 16148)** – Katherine Asafaylo.  
**Liberty Health Care Center (1353 Churchill-Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, OH 44505)** – Anne Pajak.  
**O'Brien Memorial Health Care (563 Brookfield Ave., Masury, OH 44438)** – Hank Pajak.  
**Whispering Oaks (260 S. Buhl Farm Dr., Hermitage, PA 16148)** – John "Buddy" Wansack.

**Offerings from Nov. 15 & 16, 2025**

Sunday Offering.... \$2,729.00  
 Loose Currency.... \$300.00  
 Candles.... \$192.00  
 Holyday (Nov 8).... \$35.00  
**TOTAL: \$3,256.00**

**Restoration**

Pledged \$151,240  
 Deposited \$137,938  
 Pledges 69

**Offering to Cemetery from M/M Renshaw: \$100.00**

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	(Shortage)
Nov 16	\$3,256	\$4,500	(\$1,244)
YTD	\$161,509	\$207,000	(\$45,491)

**Church Attendance**

Saturday 11/15 – **60** (4:00 pm)  
 Sunday 11/16 – **56** (9:00 am)  
 Thursday 11/20 – **27** (10:00 am)

**Quote of the Week**

“When asked if my cup  
 is half-full or half-empty, my  
 only response is that I am  
 thankful I have a cup.”

—Sam Lefkowitz



# THANKSGIVING



## 100 Hidden Words to Find

- TURKEY
- PIE
- FALL
- CORN
- LEAF
- FEAST
- BREAD
- GRAVY
- PLATE
- THANKS
- COOK
- TABLE
- FORK
- BLESS
- APPLE
- ABUNDANT
- FRUIT
- FARM
- SOUP
- ROAST
- FAMILY
- PILGRIMS
- FRIENDS
- PUMPKIN
- BLESSING
- HARVEST
- SHARE
- STUFFING
- NATIVE
- INDIAN
- MAYFLOWER
- SETTLER
- PARADE
- GIVING
- DINNER
- AUTUMN
- SQUASH
- PECAN
- NAPKIN
- GOURD
- ENJOY
- PEACE
- WARMTH
- THANKFUL
- SWEET
- JOY
- BLESSINGS
- GRATEFUL
- KINDNESS
- HAPPY
- HUG
- SMILE
- LOVE
- TOGETHER
- CARE
- HELPING
- CORNUCOPIA
- POTATO
- GREEN
- CRANBERRY
- CIDER
- CELEBRATE
- GOBBLE
- NEIGHBOR
- NOVEMBER
- ABUNDANT
- PEACEFUL
- PILGRIM
- TRADITION
- STUFF
- FELLOWSHIP
- BOUNTY
- TRADITION
- STUFF
- GATHER
- ROASTING
- ACORN
- WREATH
- CHARITY
- FESTIVE
- FAMILY
- HAPPY
- COMMUNITY
- MEMORIES
- LAUGHTER
- HOPEFUL
- REMEMBER
- KINDNESS
- GENEROUS
- FELLOWSHIP
- TRADITION
- SHARING
- REFLECTION
- APPRECIATE
- HOMEMADE
- PARDONED
- SERENE
- UNITY
- CHERISH
- TRADITION

A Z H R K A C C A T S Q U A S H G V C G F C W W M  
 K U U N N G H R H U U T C T A F R I E N D S T A E  
 O I G Y X D E Y A A T R U F A L L M V Y A M S R M  
 T G N M H W R D C N R U K F I G E A P I G S G M O  
 H K A D L N I B O X B I M E F Z N G E S N D J T R  
 A O T W N L S B R D N E T N Y I U B A W C G C H I  
 N V I T Y E H T N J V K R Y B T N Q C E Q M I G E  
 K N V V J O S H A R I N G R A V Y G E E G N D A S  
 S Y E P R I X S X L F K C E Y L E A F T T J E Y P  
 E W N M S E R E F L E C T I O N G N Y U P N R W E  
 H G I Q S P G R H B S O E F B Q V L F J Z Z O B A  
 C O R N X G O E C R T R A D I T I O N R I W W R C  
 B B L E S S I N G S I N E I G H B O R S U G N E E  
 T B Z V B U A E Q D V U U N J P M B X H Z I R A F  
 H L K M V W S W N Y E C F N S H I F Q A F I T D U  
 A E V I T F B P A R D O N E D N E K Z R W O V U L  
 N T G E N E R O U S G P A R A D E F P E P Z R L E  
 K R Q R C D H A P P Y I Z V M A Y F L O W E R K A  
 F A F F A Z N J J Z B A P J M H R L M M O W C H A  
 U D J E V T G E P I E P N Z A O Y Q I I G G D A S  
 L I C L A R E L S M U P T V R P O H E L P I N G N  
 C T B L E S S F O S U L R E M E M B E R P J E A J  
 T I T O B C T E U V D E G P G F S I B U Y K T T Q  
 S O J W C I Z I P L E V Z T I U C L I N V T M H X  
 P N W S O W P H D C Z L A W B L E S S I N G Y E E  
 T U L H Y P J X K K S M B B F A G Y T T G O U R D  
 H A T I V L I O C O M M U N I T Y R N Y G K L C W  
 P U M P K I N L Y W I F N F B L G A I J N M X V Z  
 I A J X I H D C G K L A D A O R N X V M C Z D I E  
 S T U F F A I C A R E R A M B O U N T Y E N J O Y  
 P O Z I R R A T I O I M N I S R O B W Y L E M S T  
 O G R O B V N Y I A R M T L N O V E M B E R T L R  
 T E S O E E E A W S K I S Y Z A G L C R B E T C A  
 A T F E O S E F B T R Q L H B S P J X X R W A O D  
 T H A A T T Z W W I R L P S L T D K N S A L B O I  
 O E H G M T C Q N N B U A P P R E C I A T E L K T  
 N R D K W I L A U G H T E R W Q B I D N E N E U I  
 W R E A T H L E G C Z K I C J G R E E N U R B M O  
 P L A T E C A Y R H O M E M A D E R J F I E F L N  
 W V C J X P A A A J H P Y J H Q M W Y A G S K T B

## Excuses, Excuses

It has become rather common in our society today to give—and even accept—excuses. To consider a more specific example, years ago, if you missed school or an assignment, you would need to have a doctor’s note to excuse you from said time. The same applied to workplace situations where people were absent for a period of time. However, today, we have become more accepting of “word of mouth” excuses rather than looking for justifiable reasons. If we ask for justification, then we risk being told that it’s “none of our business” or that we are not “respecting someone’s privacy.” As innocuous as this may appear, it has greater effects on how we operate, not only as a society, but also within the practices of our faith.

Years ago, going to church was a cornerstone of faithful Christians’ weekends. Sunday mornings and afternoons were reserved to pray with one’s family, within one’s church community, and to spend time sharing a meal with them or visiting family. It was a day of rest, and it was time to pray, rest, and recharge to get ready for the week ahead. Even in quite a few faithful families, parents and children would exercise the Mystery of Repentance on a Saturday afternoon in preparation to receive the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning. Such observations put Christ at the center of what each Sunday is for. However, today, people seem to have all kind of excuses to not attend Divine Services: they’re too long...they’re not at a ‘convenient’ time for me...I want to sleep in on Sunday morning...I don’t like the incense...my kids have a soccer game...I’m on vacation, and I can skip church for a week or two... And the list goes on and on and on. We feel comfortable with offering such excuses without realizing the harm that they do to our soul. Part of this is the blind acceptance with which people accept excuses in daily life: we feel that we can apply the same to our faith and spiritual lives. Such thinking is indeed gravely dangerous, for it puts our souls at peril.

Even in the modern era, it has become a practice to “watch” church on YouTube or Facebook in our pajamas rather than actually attend Divine Services at church. Indeed, this is not the same as we are not physically there, as part of the community of believers, raising one voice to God in song and prayer. Furthermore, we deprive ourselves of the Holy Mysteries—especially Repentance and the Eucharist—if we remain physically absent from the church.

Of course, there are extreme times when such practices cannot be avoided. However, they are not to become the norm or a justification for our absence from church when such extreme times are not present. Rather than having excuses for attending church, going to church should be a stolid reason—not an excuse—for postponing or missing other things. If church is “too long,” then what do you think an eternity is going to feel like in the presence of God—or without the presence of God? If we keep excusing ourselves, no time will be convenient for us to attend church. Those who seek the extra ‘rest’ on a Sunday morning negate the rest and comfort that we can find in our Lord, in His teachings through the Gospel, and through the reception of Holy Communion. If incense bothers us, then why not change where we place ourselves in the temple? Is our kid’s soccer coach going to be there when we’re judged, to provide an excuse for us for missing so many Sundays? Perhaps, God will be on “vacation” when we seek entrance into Paradise. How would we feel then?

As we continue with the Nativity Fast, let us be mindful of what can be a justifiable reason versus a common excuse. We should not live our lives by providing excuses, for such a precedent is not only dangerous to ourselves, but it provides a really bad example for others around us, especially our children and loved ones. It takes a lot of work to overcome the ease of giving an excuse, but this is what our faith demands of us.

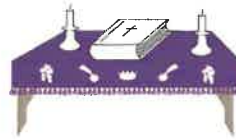
## Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy



The Thanksgiving Holiday Divine Liturgy will be offered at our Church on **Thursday, November 27th at 10:00 a.m.** Start the holiday off right by coming to Church and giving thanks to Almighty God. There will also be the Thanksgiving Liturgy at St. Michael's, Campbell, on Wednesday, November 26th at 5:00 p.m.

## Purple linens & vestments signify Pre-Nativity season

The Holy Table (Main Altar), side altars, and tetrapod are covered with purple linens until Christmas. The color purple is a penitential color in the Byzantine Catholic Church and signifies that we are in the liturgical season of the Philippian Fast (Advent). As we journey to the cave of Bethlehem to welcome the newborn King on Christmas, let us use these weeks, not just for shopping and getting stressed out, but for spiritual growth by more prayer, fasting, and being generous to our neighbor.



## Bring in Toy(s) by next Sunday



Our St. Michael Church started a "Toys For Tots" drive. Through the gift of a new toy or book, Marine Toys for Tots programs bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's disadvantaged children. You may bring an unwrapped new toy or book and place it in the cardboard box in the narthex to donate to this cause. All toys will be picked up on December 1st.

## 2026 Sanctuary candle orders begin

Enclosed is the form to request your 2026 Sanctuary Candle and Mother of God candle intentions. Plan now your week long dates to light these special candles for next year.

## St. Michael's in Campbell Kitchen Info – 405 Robinson Rd.

**STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER TODAY, November 23rd from 12 noon – 2 p.m.** You can either **EAT IN** or **TAKE OUT**. This \$15 Dinner includes: 2 Stuffed Cabbage (holupki), real mashed potatoes, a vegetable, bread/butter and dessert. Drinks will be available for eat in only. Adults \$15 – Child's \$7 (12 and under) portion includes 1 Stuffed Cabbage.

## Holiday Food & Cookie Sales

**Pirohi Sales : \$10/dozen - Potato/Cheese - Sweet Cabbage - Lekvar**

Drive thru 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - December 5th, 12th, 19th

Please pre-order - Call/Text Regina at 330-720-2100

**Halushki Sale – Friday, December 12th - Drive Thru 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - \$10/ quart**

**Homemade Christmas Cookie Trays - 5 doz Homemade Cookies - \$50**

Little Nut Rolls (Kolachi) - Apricot Stars (Kolachi) - Clothespin Cookies - Snowballs - Buckeyes - Pizzelles (vanilla) - Chocolate Chip - Peanut Butter Blossoms - Spritz - 7 Layer Cookies - Pecan Pie Bars - Raspberry Jam Bars - Decorated Cutout Cookies - Butter Dreams

Call/Text Regina at 330-720-2100



## PAC meeting

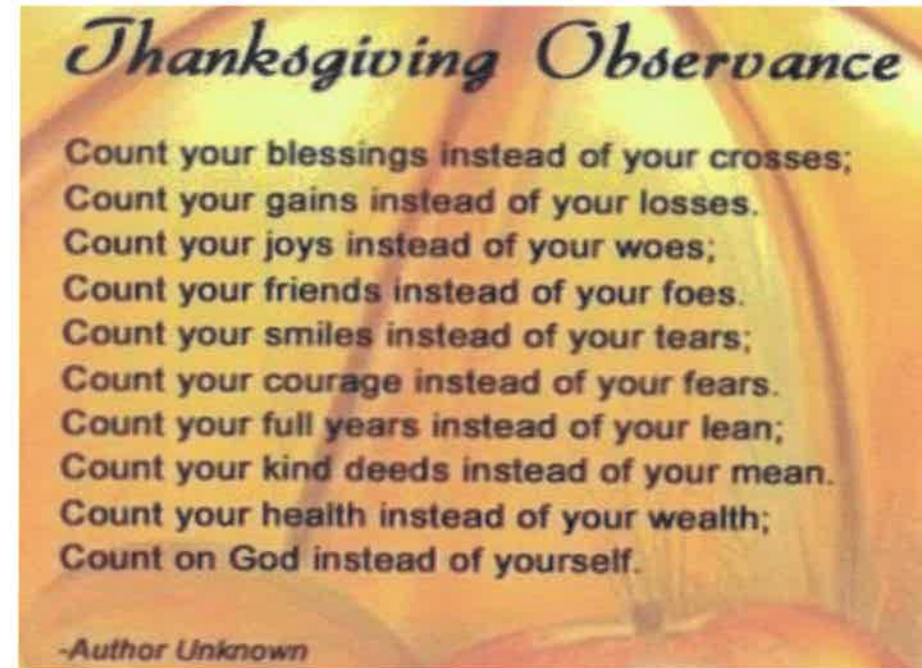
The members of the Parish Advisory Council will meet this **Monday, November 24th.**

## Special Thanks extended

"We would like to thank our friends in Christ for showing your love and support through the cards, meals, visits, phone calls, and prayers during MaryAnn's continuing illness. We appreciate each of you."

*God Bless,*

*--MaryAnn and Bob Polochak*



**WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS A VERY HAPPY, BLESSED, AND SAFE THANKSGIVING DAY!**

2026 St. Michael's Sanctuary Candle



Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Sanctuary Candle Intention for: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion of intention: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Week requested; \_\_\_\_\_

2) Mother of God Candle Intention for: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion of intention: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Week requested; \_\_\_\_\_

Additional intentions may be written on the back of this form.

Please be specific with the intention (date and year of passing, birth date and year, wedding anniversary date and year, etc.). Place this form with payment of \$15 per candle (cash or check made out to St. Michael's) in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Sanctuary Candle". If you have any questions, please call Jeff Volsko @ 724-877-6504 or email at [jv3656@yahoo.com](mailto:jv3656@yahoo.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_